



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Announcement of Inaugural Meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders**

**AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is hereby giving notice that the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders will hold a virtual, two-day meeting on February 3 and February 4, 2022. The meeting is the first in a series of federal advisory committee meetings regarding the development of recommendations to promote equity, justice, and opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities. No registration is required. The meeting is open to the public and will be live streamed at [www.hhs.gov/live](https://www.hhs.gov/live). The Commission, co-chaired by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and the U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai, will advise the President on: (i) the development, monitoring, and coordination of executive branch efforts to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities in the United States, including efforts to close gaps in health, socioeconomic, employment, and educational outcomes; (ii) policies to address and end anti-Asian bias, xenophobia, racism, and nativism, and opportunities for the executive branch to advance inclusion, belonging, and public awareness of the diversity and accomplishments of AA and NHPI people, cultures, and histories; (iii) policies, programs, and initiatives to prevent, report, respond to, and track anti-Asian hate crimes and hate incidents;

(iv) ways in which the Federal Government can build on the capacity and contributions of AA and NHPI communities through equitable Federal funding, grantmaking, and employment opportunities; (v) policies and practices to improve research and equitable data disaggregation regarding AA and NHPI communities; (vi) policies and practices to improve language access services to ensure AA and NHPI communities can access Federal programs and services; and (vii) strategies to increase public- and private-sector collaboration, and community involvement in improving the safety and socioeconomic, health, educational, occupational, and environmental well-being of AA and NHPI communities.

**DATES:** The Commission will meet for two days on February 3, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), and February 4, 2022, from 1:30 pm to approximately 5:00 pm ET. The confirmed time and agenda will be posted on the website for the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/whiaanhpi/commission/index.html> when this information becomes available.

**LOCATION:** The meeting will be live streamed at [www.HHS.gov/live](http://www.HHS.gov/live).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Emmeline Ochiai, Designated Federal Officer, President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 515F, 200 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 619-0403 (telephone), (202) 619-3818 (fax).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Information is available on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders website at

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/whiaanhpi/commission/index.html>. The names of the 25 members of the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/whiaanhpi/commission/commissioners/index.html>.

*Purpose of Meeting:* During the inaugural meeting of the Commission, the commissioners will be sworn into service, receive briefings on the immediate and systemic challenges facing AA and NHPI communities, and begin to develop recommendations regarding the ways the public, private and non-profit sectors can work together to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

*Background:* Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander individuals and communities have molded the American experience, and the contributions and achievements of AA and NHPI communities make the United States stronger and more vibrant. The richness of America's multicultural democracy is strengthened by the diversity of AA and NHPI communities and the many cultures and languages of AA and NHPI individuals in the United States, who collectively constitute the fastest growing racial group in the Nation and make rich contributions to our society, our economy, and our culture.

Systemic barriers to equity, justice, and opportunity put the American dream out of reach of many AA and NHPI communities. Many AA and NHPI individuals face persistent disparities in socioeconomic, health, and educational outcomes. Linguistic isolation and lack of access to language-assistance services continue to lock many AA and NHPI individuals out of opportunities. Data collection practices fail to measure and reflect the diversity of AA and NHPI populations. Failure to disaggregate data contributes to enduring stereotypes about Asian Americans as a “model minority” and obscures disparities within AA and NHPI communities.

Tragic acts of anti-Asian violence have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, casting a shadow of fear and grief over many AA and NHPI communities, in particular East Asian communities. Long before this pandemic, AA and NHPI communities in the United States, including South Asian and Southeast Asian communities, have faced persistent xenophobia, religious discrimination, racism, and violence. At the same time, AA and NHPI communities are overrepresented in the pandemic's essential workforce in healthcare, food supply, education, and childcare, with more than four million AA and NHPIs manning the frontlines throughout the pandemic. Additionally, while they make up just four percent of registered nurses in the U.S., Filipino nurses accounted for 32 percent of nurse lives lost to COVID-19 in 2020.

Many AA and NHPI communities, and in particular Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, have also been disproportionately burdened by the COVID-19 public health crisis. Evidence suggests that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are three times more likely to contract COVID-19 compared to white people and nearly twice as likely to die from the disease. On top of these health inequities, many AA and NHPI workers, families, and small businesses have faced devastating economic losses during this crisis, which must be addressed.

*Public Participation at Meeting:* Members of the public are invited to view the Commission meeting at [www.HHS.gov/live](http://www.HHS.gov/live). Registration is not needed. Please note that there will be no opportunity for oral public comments during the inaugural meeting of the Commission. However, written comments are welcomed throughout the development of the Commission's recommendations to promote equity, justice, and opportunity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and may be emailed to [AANHPICommission@hhs.gov](mailto:AANHPICommission@hhs.gov).

Authority: Executive Order 14031. The President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (Commission) is governed by provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of federal advisory committees.

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